

The Voice of Liberty:

A Liveryman's Speech to his Fellow-Citizens.

I Understand, Gentlemen, that some of you, tho' Friends to Liberty, are backward in giving your Votes to Mr. WILKES; supposing, that his present Circumstances render him incapable of representing you in Parliament.—Be not deceived.—Mr. WILKES is possessed of all the requisite, and I will say, the most essential, Qualifications, to accept and discharge the Trust he solicits.

You say you would not chuse to *give away* your Votes.—For Heaven's Sake, you surely would not *sell* them!—But you will sell them, and at the Hazard of losing their Price, if you continue to be influenced by private Interest or personal Connections.

As Liverymen of London, you represent by Charter the collective Body of Freemen of this populous City, even as your Members in Parliament represent you. If then you hold in just Abhorrence that Man, who in the great Assembly of the Nation, should be deaf to your Remonstrances, and sacrifice your interests to his own, with what Propriety can you be deaf to the *Voice of the People*, and prefer your own particular Emolument to the *general Good*?

I have my Reasons, as well as you, to prefer other Candidates; but these Reasons are peculiar and partial; and therefore can have no influence on a conscientious Man upon so universally interesting an occasion.—I stand not up in defence of Mr. *Wilkes*. It is in defence of LIBERTY; in defence of those glorious Privileges which our Ancestors bought dearly with their blood: and shall not we protect and honour the Man who hath shewn a kindred Zeal to transmit them to posterity? God forbid we should be so lost to public virtue; that we should be such cruel Fathers as to rob our Children of those inestimable Privileges, for the sake of any present Gratification to ourselves!—But, if it be so; if the Venality and Corruption, which has been long openly preying on the Limbs of our Country, have at last secretly seized on her Heart and Vitals in the City of *London*, mortifying indeed is our Condition; let Shame for ever seal up our Lips, and the Name of LIBERTY be heard in our Streets no more.

